

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2152

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION ONE OF TWO TEHRAN 3069

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: STATE 70302

1. YOUTH COMMITTEE AND COUNTRY TEAM JOIN IN BELIEF EXERCISE REQUESTED IN REFTEL IS UNFORTUNATE FURTHER EXAMPLE OF TENDENCY TOWARDS MINDLESS QUANTIFICATION IN ANALYSES CONCERNING WIDE VARIETY OF COUNTRIES AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS WHICH DO NOT ADMIT OF SUCH TREATMENT. PREPARATION OF THIS CABLE HAS BEEN, FOR ALL CONCERNED, A DEMORALIZING EFFORT TO RENDER STATISTICALLY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL JUDGEMENTS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO QUANTIFICATION. EMBASSY THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT FUTURE QUESTIONNAIRES THIS SUBJECT CALL FOR NARRATIVE ANALYSIS RATHER THAN ARBITRARY CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE WEIGHTS. ACCORDINGLY, STATISTICAL INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL IS ACCOMPANIED THIS TELEGRAM BY CAPSULATED NARRATIVE EXPLANATION TO GIVE MEANING TO OTHERWISE EMPTY FIGURES.

2. YOUTH CATEGORIES

A. PERCENTAGES:

- 1) YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (0): AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED, FORMAL POLITICAL SYSTEM IS NOT ROAD TO POWER.
- 2) YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS (15 PERCENT) PRESENTLY HAVE LITTLE IMPACT NATIONAL POLICY FORMULATION; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE POTENTIAL FOR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN POST-SHAH POLITICAL SCENE.

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- 3) YOUNG BUREAUCRATS (11 PERCENT), PARTICULARLY IN MINISTRIES OF PLAN AND BUDGET, FINANCE, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND IN OIL COMPANY (NIOC), ARE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PLANNING IRAN'S FUTURE.
- 4) MEDIA (7 PERCENT) RECEIVING VERY LARGE GOI ALLOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR EXPANSION RADIO AND TV, WHICH GIVES UNUSUALLY LARGE PROPORTION YOUNG PEOPLE THESE SPECIALTIES SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL IMPACT IRANIAN PUBLIC OPINION.
- 5) CHURCH (2 PERCENT) POWER TO AFFECT EVENTS IN IRAN HAS BEEN REDUCED, BUT RECENTLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING REVIVED INTEREST IN ISLAM.
- 6) LAW (4 PERCENT) HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN BACKGROUND OF MANY PRESENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IRANIAN LEADERS.
- 7) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (9 PERCENT) OF CLEAR IMPORTANCE TO USG AND IS ONE AREA IN WHICH YOUNG IRANIANS MAKING PERMITTED EFFORTS TO ALTER SYSTEM.
- 8) MEDICINE (4 PERCENT) HAS TRADITIONALLY NURTURED HIGH PROPORTION OF PROMINENT IRANIANS IN AND OUT OF GOI. LARGE PROPORTION OF BRIGHTEST STUDENTS CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE MEDICAL STUDIES.
- 9) EDUCATORS (8 PERCENT) HAVE AN OBVIOUS LONG-RANGE IMPACT ON YOUTH.
- 10) ARTS AND LETTERS (3 PERCENT) CONTINUE ENJOY TRADITIONALLY HIGH PRESTIGE AND SERVE AS VEHICLE, PARTICULARLY IN POETRY, FOR EXPRESSION OF DISSENT.
- 11) YOUNG LABOR LEADERS (0 PERCENT) ARE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND GENUINE LABOR MOVEMENT DOES NOT YET EXIST IN IRAN.
- 12) LEADERS OF NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS (0 PERCENT): AUTONOMOUS YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT EXIST IN IRAN.
- 13) UNIVERSITY STUDENT LEADERS (0 PERCENT) PRESUMABLY EXIST, BUT ARE NOT IDENTIFIABLE AND ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WOULD ENDANGER THEM AND FOSTER COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE RESENTMENT.
- 14) SELECTED UNIVERSITY FACULTIES (2 PERCENT) WHICH MOST DESERVING USG SUPPORT ON OFFICIAL LEVEL JUDGED TO BE FACULTIES OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AT TEHRAN AND NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES, ARYAMEHR UNIV., TEHRAN POLYTECHNIC, TABRIZ UNIV. AND PAHLAVI UNIV. IN SHIRAZ.
- 15) SECONDARY SCHOOL LEADERS (0 PERCENT), IF THEY EXIST, NOT APPROACHABLE FOR REASONS STATED IN SECTION 13 ABOVE.
- 16) YOUNG DISSIDENTS (0 PERCENT) EITHER RENDERED INEFFECTIVE, IN HIDING, OR UNAPPROACHABLE BY EMBASSY FOR SAME REASONS

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AS STUDENT LEADERS.

- 17) LEADERS OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS (0 PERCENT) ARE SYSTEMATICALLY CO-OPTED UPON ACHIEVEMENT THIS STATUS.
- 18) OTHER (35 PERCENT): THE HUNDRED FAMILIES, YOUTH WITH FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS TO PRESENT RULING GROUP.

B. SHORT-TERM YOUTH IMPACT: NO KNOWN IRANIAN YOUTH GROUP

OTHER THAN ANTI- REGIME CONFEDERATION OF IRANIAN STUDENTS ABROAD
LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON USG INTERESTS. CONFED-
ERATION COULD HAVE POTENTIAL TO EMBARRASS USG ON MATTERS
CONCERNING LARGESCALE GOI PURCHASES U. S. ARMS AND CONTINUING USG
SUPPORT FOR SHAH.

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